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AMCONSUL SHANGHAI
AMCONSUL SHENYANG
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU
AMCONSUL CHENGDU POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 27939

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CH
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT ARRESTS STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS

REF.: BEIJING 27745

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE CHINESE ARMED POLICE FORCE, FOLLOWING THE NOVEMBER 20 STUDENT DEMONSTRATION IN TIANANMEN SQUARE (REFTEL), PUBLIC SECURITY AUTHORITIES INTERVIEWED MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS AND ARRESTED TWENTY-THREE CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN RINGLEADERS. THE AUTHORITIES KNEW WHOM TO LOOK FOR BECAUSE THEY HAD INFILTRATED BOTH PREPARATIONS FOR THE DEMONSTRATION AND THE DEMONSTRATION ITSELF. EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT PUBLIC SECURITY OFFICIALS ARE TAKING STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS VERY SERIOUSLY AND THAT ONE ARMED POLICE INSTALLATION, SHORTLY BEFORE LAST

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WEEK'S STUDENT DEMONSTRATION, "LOOKED LIKE IT WAS PREPARING FOR A WAR."

3. ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE, PUBLIC SECURITY AUTHORITIES KNOW THAT SOME STUDENTS WHO ARE CHILDREN OF HIGH-RANKING PARTY CADRES USED INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLY IN CLOSELY GUARDED INTERNAL PARTY DOCUMENTS TO STIR UP THE DEMONSTRATORS. THIS RESTRICTED INFORMATION FOR THE MOST PART DEALT WITH CHINA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: ROBERT J. MARTEN Page - 1

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1:

ALTHOUGH HIGH CADRE CHILDREN WERE INVOLVED IN PLANNING THE NOVEMBER 20 DEMONSTRATION, NONE WAS ARRESTED.

4. THE SAME SOURCE SAID THAT INQUIRIES FROM FOREIGN REPORTERS AND STUDENTS ABOUT THE FATE OF ARRESTED DEMONSTRATORS HAD HEIGHTENED OFFICIAL SUSPICION OF THE DETAINED STUDENTS, WHO WERE THEN INTERROGATED ABOUT THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE FOREIGNERS. THE AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY HAVE FORBIDDEN STUDENTS TO TALK TO FOREIGNERS ABOUT THE DEMONSTRATION OR THE ARRESTED STUDENTS.

5. COMMENT. WE DO NOT KNOW ENOUGH AT THIS TIME TO JUDGE WHETHER THE HIGH CADRE CHILDREN ON CAMPUS ARE ACTING ON THEIR OWN OR ON BEHALF OF THEIR PARENTS. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PUBLIC SECURITY ORGANS ARE DRAWN INTO CONTROLLING STUDENTS REFLECTS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAS LOST THE INITIATIVE ON CAMPUS.
LORD.

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